



King County
Department of Public Defense
206-296-7662

Truancy Contempt of Court Petitions – Public Defense Services

Description:

By law, your child has the right to an attorney to represent their concerns in the Truancy Contempt of Court process. When your child is required to appear on a Truancy Contempt of Court petition, an appointed attorney is ordered assigned to represent your child, unless represented by a retained attorney. A parent may retain counsel for their child. If counsel is appointed, parents and legal guardians are required by law to pay for the legal costs of their child's defense unless they are unable to pay and are eligible for public defense services. Parents may not receive assistance of an appointed attorney at public expense for themselves for Truancy Contempt of Court cases.

Who is eligible for public defense services?

Your family's income and assets need to be reviewed to see if you qualify for public defense services. In general, in order to be considered indigent and automatically eligible for public defense services without cost to you, your family's income must not exceed 125% of the Federal poverty level. However, a complete screening needs to be completed to see if you qualify. Families who receive public assistance such as food stamps or TANF qualify by law but still need to be screened.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>2014 Maximum Monthly Income</u>
2 people	\$1,639
3 people	\$2,062
4 people	\$2,485

How to qualify:

If you are not retaining an attorney for your child, and an attorney has been appointed for a Truancy Contempt of Court petition at Juvenile Court, you would next complete a financial screening at the Department of Public Defense (DPD). Please bring the following documents with you to the screening:

- Case Number (or copy of the Truancy paperwork or order)
- Proof that you are receiving public assistance – or –
- Paystubs from the last three months
- Last year's tax return
- Any additional information you may have available, such as recent bank statements, mortgage statement, etc.
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How much does it cost if I don't qualify?

If you don't qualify for public defense services at no cost, you will be billed \$650.07. If desired, you may set up a payment plan by signing a promissory note with King County DPD.

Locations:

King County Juvenile Court 1211 E. Alder St., 3 rd Floor Seattle, WA 98122 M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	King County Courthouse 516 Third Ave., 8 th Floor Seattle, WA 98104 M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Maleng Regional Justice Center 401 Fourth Ave. N., Room M-1 Kent, WA 98032 M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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Additional information about the Department of Public Defense and financial eligibility may be found at <http://kingcounty.gov/courts/OPD/Services/ProvideAttorney.aspx>